

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated April 16, 2009. Claims 66-68 and 70-85 are in the application, of which Claims 66, 84, and 85 are the independent claims. Claim 82 is amended herein. No new matter is believed to have been introduced to the application by this amendment. The changes to the claim are fully supported by the original disclosure, including, for example, original paragraph [53] and FIG. 3. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 66, 70, 80, 82, 84, and 85 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,244,957 ("Walker"). Claims 67, 68, 72-74, 77-79, and 81 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Walker in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2005/0080915 ("Shoemaker"). Claims 71 and 76 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Walker in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,854,009 ("Hughes"). Claim 75 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Walker in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,876,644 ("Hsu"). Claim 83 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Walker in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,089,508 ("Wright"). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the these rejections are respectfully requested.

All of the independent claims, namely Claims 66, 84, and 85, feature a computing device (e.g., client) for prompting a user for identification information, and the same computing device (e.g., client) for transmitting a lock session signal to a remotely located computing device (e.g., server). *See also, e.g.,* Subject Application, FIG. 3, S302 and S305.

Walker discloses a slot machine (e.g., client) with a card reader that reads player identifier information and communicates the identifying information to a slot server. Walker,

col. 7, lines 35-40 and FIG. 8A. Walker's slot server, not the slot machine (e.g., client), transmits locking data to the slot machine. Walker, col. 9, line 3. Accordingly, Walker does not disclose or suggest a computing device (e.g., client) that prompts a user for identification information as well as that transmits a lock session signal to a remotely located computing device (e.g., server). The other references, which were applied in the rejection of certain dependent claims, are not seen to remedy the deficiencies of Walker. Therefore, independent Claims 66, 84, and 85 are believed to be allowable over the applied references.

The other pending claims in the application are dependent from independent Claim 66, 84, or 85 discussed above and therefore are believed to be allowable over the applied references for at least the same reasons. Because each dependent claim is deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual consideration of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

For example, according to claim 82, transmitting the lock session signal from the computing device (e.g., client) to the remotely located computing device locks the communications session at the remotely located computing device (e.g., server). In Walker, locking data is transmitted from a slot server to a slot machine, and thus locking is done at the slot machine (e.g., client), rather than at the server. In Claim 82 of the subject application, on the other hand, a remotely located computing device (e.g., server) receives a lock session signal and locks the session at the remotely located computing device. Applicants disclose "[l]ocking a session at the ... server, has several unique advantages over the techniques used in conventional session managers.... [B]y triggering the session lock based upon a lock session signal received from a remote computing device, session lock intervals can be configured or adjusted based upon

criteria which may be set at each remote computing device.” Subject Application, paragraph [13].

The absence of a reply to a specific rejection, issue, or comment does not signify agreement with or concession of that rejection, issue, or comment. In addition, because the arguments made above may not be exhaustive, there may be other reasons for patentability of any or all claims that have not been expressed. Finally, nothing in this paper should be construed as an intent to concede any issue with regard to any claim, except as specifically stated in this paper, and the amendment or cancellation of any claim does not necessarily signify concession of unpatentability of the claim prior to its amendment or cancellation.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner’s earliest convenience. Applicants’ undersigned attorney may be contacted at the address and telephone number set forth below.

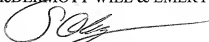
To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 502203 and please credit any excess fees to

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such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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